

CHICAGO WASTE STRATEGY

The City of Chicago, in collaboration with the Delta Institute, launched the Waste Strategy, a plan that overhauls the City's waste system with a goal to minimize landfilling, increase diversion and recycling, reduce cost and increase efficiency, maximize economic investment and workforce development opportunities, and address social and environmental justice inequities.

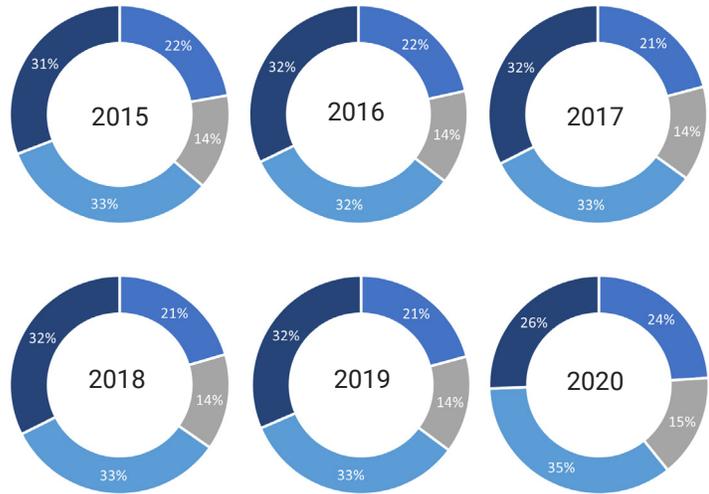
WASTE GENERATION BY SECTOR

The University of Illinois at Chicago supported the Chicago Waste Strategy by conducting data analysis for Chicago's waste stream.

The City of Chicago generated 4.13 million tons of materials in 2020. Over the last three years, Chicago has decreased material generation by 200,000 tons annually (2018 vs 2020).

- C&D - Buildings
- Residential - low-density
- ICI
- Residential - high-density

2015: 4.239 Mil Tons
 2016: 4.354 Mil Tons ▲
 2017: 4.367 Mil Tons ▲
 2018: 4.357 Mil Tons ▼
 2019: 4.329 Mil Tons ▼
 2020: 4.127 Mil Tons ▼



RESIDENTIAL WASTE REDUCTION



Reduce waste and increase recycling and composting in residential areas.

MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT AND DATA TRACKING



Improve municipal management of waste and materials.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Delta Institute identified implementation opportunities across seven categories from municipal management and policy to the many waste streams that flow through the city.

In each of those categories, several potential options for the City are presented to allow for short-term implementation, as well as long-term budgeting, planning, and partnership building.

ICI WASTE REDUCTION



Reduce industrial, commercial, and institutional waste.

SOURCE REDUCTION, REUSE, & REPAIR



Reduce source materials and extend the useful life of materials.

ORGANICS & WASTED FOOD



Reduce organics and food sent to landfills. Bolster compost markets.

SPECIALTY MATERIALS



Manage specialty materials that cannot go through traditional recycling.

CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION DEBRIS



Recycle and reuse construction, demolition, and renovation project materials.